

REGULATIONS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA.

Secretary to the Council : Sir, I beg to report that the Travancore Ancient Monuments Preservation Bill, the Travancore Rubber Control Bill, the Travancore Agriculturists' Relief Bill, and the Travancore Life Assurance Companies Bill have received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,000 for work in connection with the provision of additional accommodation in the General Hospital, Trivandrum. An estimate for Rs. 25,670 has been sanctioned by the Government for the work in question. Of this, Rs. 15,000 alone was provided in the Budget for the current year. The work is in speedy progress, and we want to complete it, this year if possible and so I move for this supplementary grant of Rs. 10,000 to complete the works.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Sir, with regard to the grant now asked for, before granting this amount, we have first of all to be assured by the Chief Engineer that the buildings that are to be constructed will be safely constructed. The President and Mr. Truscott smile at what I say. We must consider this question very carefully. If it were any other building, I would not have emphasised that we must take particular care about the safety of the building. Sir, those who go to hospitals do so on account of some malady.

President : Does the honourable member mean to say that it does not matter whether this building for instance, is safe or not? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : I do not mean to go so far; at any rate, one portion of it must be safe.

President : You cannot have buildings falling down in bits.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Our experience in Travancore has been like that, Sir.

I said special care should be taken with regard to hospital buildings, because the patients who are housed there should not be killed by the buildings collapsing. Three years ago, a Hospital building, at Oolampara collapsed almost immediately after it was constructed, and the information we received was that the result was fatal to some patients. When the Chief Engineer was asked to give information, by the editor of a responsible daily in Trivandrum, this was what the Chief Engineer replied, (in his letter No. 1175, dated 14-5-34 :—